









# From Deployment to Employment: Assistive Technology Options for Wounded Service Membersey

Wounded Service Members Team Leader Computer/Electronic Accommodations Program

9 August 2007





### **CAP Overview**

- CAP was established in 1990 as the Department of Defense's (DoD) centrally funded program to provide accommodations
- Expanded by Congress in 2000 to support other federal agencies
- Partnerships with 65 federal agencies (including the VA, HHS, and DHS)
- Over 57,000 accommodations since inception
- <u>CAP Mission</u>: To provide assistive technology and accommodations to ensure people with disabilities have equal access to the information environment and opportunities in the DoD and throughout the federal government





## **CAP Services**

- Provide assistive technology and training
- Conduct needs assessments and technology demonstrations
- Provide installation and integration
- Provide training on disability management and on creating an accessible environment
- Assist in the recruitment, placement, promotion and retention of people with disabilities and Wounded Service Members (WSM)





# Assistive Technology for Wounded Service Members Impairments

 Alternative keyboards, input devices and voice recognition software

#### Vision Loss

 Screen readers and training, magnification software, closedcircuit televisions (CCTVs)

#### Hearing Loss

- Assistive listening devices (ALDs) and personal amplification devices
- Cognitive Impairments, including traumatic brain injuries (TBI)
  - Cueing and memory aids (PDAs), literacy software, screen readers, ALDs, augmentative communication devices

















# From Deployment to Employment

- CAP's Wounded Service Members Initiative
  - Phase 1: Recovery and Rehabilitation
  - Phase 2: Transition
  - Phase 3: Employment



- Walter Reed AMC/CAP Tech Center in Building 11
- Brooke AMC occupational therapy (OT) Activities of Daily Living (ADL) Apartment
- FY07 Accomplishments
  - Public Law 109-364: Retention of assistive technology (AT) after separation or medical retirement from active service
  - Provided over 2,000 accommodations
  - Case management





# Phase 1: Recovery and Rehabilitation the recovery and rehabilitation process

- Introduction to assistive technology
- Onsite needs assessments
- Individual accommodations
- Medical departments
  - Intensive care
  - Amputee care
  - Occupational therapy
  - Speech therapy
  - Case management









# Phase 1: Recovery and Rehabilitation

- Brace Colambional and Stiller of Sustained multiple traumatic injuries due to mortar attack in support of OIF on 2 April 2005
- Transported to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center and then directly to BAMC
- Comprehensive rehabilitation program
  - Orthopedics
  - Psychosocial
  - Low vision
- Enhancement of occupational performance via OT services and CAPprovided assistive technology









### **Phase 2: Transition**

- Increase awareness to impact future independence and employment by working closely with:
  - Therapists, providers, and case managers
  - Military support programs
    - Army Wounded Warrior Program (AW2)
    - USMC Wounded Warrior Regiment,
       Marine for Life Injured Support
    - Navy Safe Harbor Program
    - Palace HART (Helping Airmen Recover Together)
  - VA Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors
- Provide services to housing, training centers and employment or career fairs









# Phase 3: Employment and Education

- Provide assistive technology to WSMs to use in future employment and vocational settings
- Provide services and resources
  - Employment internships
  - Public and private sector initiatives
  - Assistive technology and services in federal employment
  - Partnership programs
    - Military Severely Injured Center (MSIC)
      - www.militaryonesource.com
    - VA Seamless Transition
      - www.seamlesstransition.va.gov
    - DOL REALifelines
      - www.dol.gov/vets/programs/Real-life/main.htm







**CAP Centers: WRAMC Partnership** 

#### Accommodations

FY07 YTD: 354 accommodations

Since FY04: 638 accommodations

#### · Referrals

 Current: EEO POC, nonprofits, TBI Clinic, ASAP, Speech Pathology

 Future: Increase WRAMC OT/PT involvement and AT in rehabilitation settings

#### Best Practices

- CAP provided AT to WRAMC EEO to create Tech Center in Building 11
- Offers educational and training opportunities









# CAP Centers: BAMC Partnership Accommodations

- FY07 YTD: 430 accommodations
- Since FY04: 719 accommodations

#### · Referrals

 OT, Neurology, Amputee Case Management, MSIC and AW2 Counselors, Marine for Life, Soldiers' Angels

#### Best Practices

- Integrated AT Workstation into OT Activities of Daily Living Apartment
- Center for the Intrepid









# **Legislation FY07 NDAA**

Public Law 109-364
109th Congress

John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007
Oct. 17, 2006
[H.R. 5122]
TITLE V--MILITARY PERSONNEL POLICY

### SEC. 561. AUTHORITY FOR RETENTION AFTER SEPARATION FROM SERVICE OF ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY AND DEVICES PROVIDED WHILE ON ACTIVE DUTY.

(a) In General- Chapter 58 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1150 the following new section:

#### `Sec. 1151. Retention of assistive technology and services provided before separation

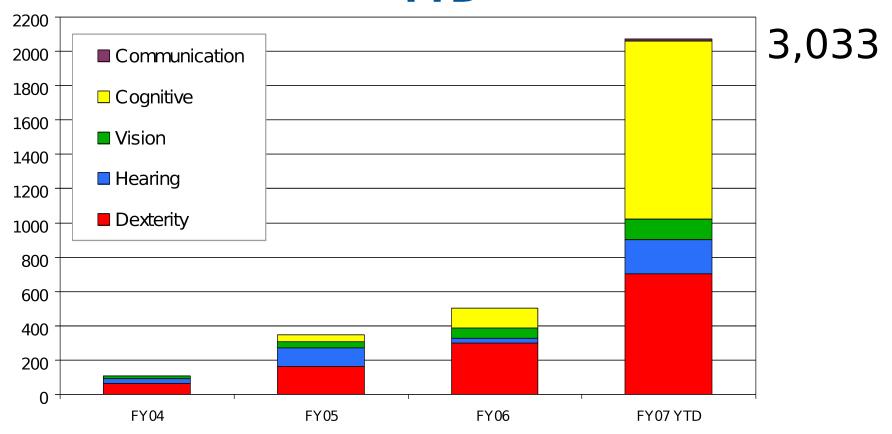
`(a) Authority- A member of the armed forces who is provided an assistive technology or assistive technology device for a severe or debilitating illness or injury incurred or aggravated by such member while on active duty may, under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense, be authorized to retain such assistive technology or assistive technology device upon the separation of the member from active service.

- `(b) Definitions- In this section, the terms `assistive technology' and `assistive technology device' have the meaning given those terms in section 3 of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3002).'
- (b) Clerical Amendment- The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1150 the following new item:
- `1151. Retention of assistive technology and services provided before separation.'.





# Wounded Service Members Accommodations Profile for FY04 - FY07 YTD







# FY07 WSM Onsite Training Sessions

- NNMC Trauma Team
- WRAMC PM&R Staff
- Palo Alto VAMC Staff
- Camp Lejeune Naval Hospital (Case Management)
- NMCSD C-5 Staff
- Camp Pendleton Naval Hospital
- Womack AMC (Case Management & OT)
- Navy Safe Harbor Staff
- BAMC/Center for Intrepid Staff
- VTC presentation for MA CBHCO Case Managers
- Medical Hold Over Conference, Atlanta, GA
- Scripps Encinitas Rehab Center Brain Injury Day Treatment Staff
- Army Wounded Warrior Staff
- FT Campbell Case Managers
- Upcoming Training Sessions
  - FT Carson Case Managers
  - Madigan AMC Staff
  - Darnall ACH Staff
  - BAMC/Center for Intrepid Staff





## **WSM Accommodation Locations**







# **Next Steps: CAP Referral Process**

- Visit the CAP Wounded Service Member Web site
  - www.tricare.mil/cap/wsm
- Submit online requests for needs assessments or assistive technology
- VTC assessments available through the CAP Technology Center (CAPTEC) at the Pentagon: (703) 693-5163





## CAP WSM Web site: www.tricare.mil/cap/wsm









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#### **CAP Wounded Service Members Initiative**

CAP Supports Wounded Service Members by providing needs assessments, assistive technology, and training throughout all phases of recovery and their transition to employment.

**Accommodation Solutions** 

News & Events Resources

#### **Public Law**

On October 17, 2006 Public Law 109-364 passed which allows wounded service members to retain assistive technology and services provided by CAP upon separation from active service.

» Read Complete Law (PDF)

#### **CAP WSM Tools**

- » Request WSM Needs Assessment
- » Submit WSM Request
- » Browse Assistive Technology

#### **CAP Newsletters**

Use the checkboxes below to select the newsletters you would like to subscribe to.

- CAPtions
- CAPTEC
- Workforce Recruitment Program
- ☐ Healthy Work Practices
   Program

#### Wounded Service Members

CAP works closely with service members across the nation to ensure they receive appropriate assistive technology for their needs. Accommodations are available for service members with vision or hearing loss, dexterity impairments, including upper-extremity amputees, and communication and cognitive difficulties, including Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI).

CAP is available to provide support and accommodations in the following phases:

#### Phase 1:

Recovery and Rehabilitation: CAP can provide assistive technology to support a service member's medical recovery and rehabilitation at Medical Treatment Facilities (MTFs) throughout the nation.

#### Phase 2:

Transition: CAP works closely with therapists, providers, case managers, and military liaisons to increase awareness of assistive technology. CAP also provides services to housing and training facilities at various MTFs, in addition to supporting hiring initiatives and career fairs.

#### Phase 3:

Employment: CAP can provide assistive technology and accommodations free of charge for internship and/or permanent employment within the Federal government.

» Read CAP's WSM Brochure (PDF)

#### Request WSM Needs Assessment

Providers, service members, and family members can submit requests for CAP needs assessments. Once the request is submitted, someone from the CAP





### **CAP** is Accessible

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